

did mention Shays-Meehan. I realize he insinuated that that might be acted upon. What about final passage?

Mr. THOMAS. Well, if the gentleman will continue to yield, our commitment was to the Shays-Meehan, which had the most amendments attached to it. Obviously, once that is dispensed with, in terms of the amendments, that is the only amendment that we have under unanimous consent agreement. Our hope is that we will have reached a level of comity that we could move through the rest of those substitutes relatively quickly. But since we do not have a unanimous consent agreement on the amendments or the structure, it is extremely difficult to pin it down. But our goal is to complete it.

We now have a clear assignment on Shays-Meehan, and to the degree we can meet that next week, we will have a much better understanding of what we need to do to agree to finish it. Obviously, my personal commitment is to get it done before we leave in its entirety.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

#### CONSIDERING MEMBER AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1542

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor H.R. 1542, a bill originally introduced by Representative Bono of California, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

#### CONSIDERING MEMBER AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2882

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 2882, a bill originally introduced by Representative Bono of California, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 27, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 16 and July 17 last week I had to be in my Congressional District on official business and missed rollcall votes 288 through 296. Had I been present I would have voted in the following way:

Number 288, aye; number 289, no; number 290, aye; number 291, no; number 292, no; number 293, no; number 294, aye; number 295, aye; and number 296, no.

#### APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF NATIONAL BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON FUTURE OF MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of section 4021(c) of Public Law 105-33, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mrs. Colleen Conway-Welch, Tennessee.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. LANGFORD

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand before my colleagues today to pay homage to a man who has benefitted us all. Mr. Robert Langford, the senior vice president of production operations of Owens' Country Sausage has retired after 35 years of service.

Robert, a graduate of both Texas A&M University and Southern Methodist University was hired by Jerry Owens in 1963. Mr. Owens recognized Robert's talents and quickly promoted him to manager of engineering. In 1972, he became the general manager and was continually advanced through the ranks until he reached his present position, the senior vice president of production operations. Due in large part to his work and innovations, Robert led the Owens Corporation to gain the number one market share position in the Southwest, which it still enjoys to this day.

These accomplishments are quite impressive, yet they are only one aspect of Robert F. Langford's life. Robert also worked extensively with the Southwest Meat Association. He was

the president of SMA from 1978 to 1980 and composed its bylaws and mission statement. But Robert was not content to merely serve the SMA. He wanted to serve his community as well. To realize this goal, Robert became one of the three founders of the Southwest Meat Association's Education Foundation as well as its chairman from 1982 to 1998. The Education Foundation provides scholarships to deserving students who display an interest and aptitude for a career in the meat industry. He believes education is a must.

Robert's commitment to promoting education in the community is shared by his wife Kathy, who dedicated 35 years of her life to teaching her young children. Kathy has zealously supported Robert every step of the way and she shares in all his numerous triumphs.

Robert F. Langford served his country in the United States Air Force as a fighter pilot for five years. He has served his community as the Chairman of the Fellowship of Deacons for Park Cities Baptist Church, and he has served us all by improving our quality of life through his work.

He has earned my admiration as a talented businessman and inventor. He has gained my respect as a dedicated family man and community leader. And he has won my friendship as a kindhearted and generous person.

I wish for Robert, his wife Kathy, and their children and grandchildren, all the blessings that are mine to give. From the bottom of my heart.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain further 1-minute requests.

#### TAX SURPLUS DOES NOT BELONG TO CONGRESS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have known for a long time that a government that robs from Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul.

Our liberal colleagues want to rob the hard working taxpayers of America by taking their tax surplus and giving it to Washington bureaucrats.

Not so fast! That tax surplus does not belong to Congress, does not belong to the administration, and does not belong to the bureaucrats. Rather, it belongs to the taxpayers.

We must cut taxes so that families can take that much-needed vacation, spend some time with their kids, or even put some money aside for their education.

Now, recently, President Clinton labeled this idea of giving back the taxpayer some money the wrong course for America. Well, Mr. Speaker, the American people just are not going to accept the Democrats' liberal spin on this at this time.

The Republican Congress is determined to track down the mistakes of 60 years of liberals robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Republicans are determined to save the ship before it sinks from the weight and burdens of excess taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back to the American public any much-needed tax break.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO APPOINT INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the lead editorial in The New York Times came out strongly against the Attorney General and her continued refusal to admit to the obvious. The law requires that an independent counsel be named to investigate allegations of illegal campaign money from Communist China into the Democratic Party in the 1996 election.

FBI Director Louie Freeh has pleaded with the Attorney General to do so. And now Charles Labella, the person who was hand picked by Janet Reno to lead the investigation of these charges, has told the Attorney General that she simply has no choice.

The New York Times in this editorial states, "Ms. Reno can give her usual runaround about being hard-headed, but she cannot hide from the meaning of this development."

Ms. Reno has ignored the advice of the FBI Director and her own hand-picked investigator for too long. She is a lot like the character in Hogan's Heroes, that great TV series, Sergeant Schultz. When Colonel Hogan would say something to him about nefarious affairs, Sergeant Schultz would say, "I know nothing, I see nothing, I hear nothing."

Ms. Reno, it is time to appoint an independent prosecutor for campaign finance.

#### REGARDING THE 2000 CENSUS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the errant comments of my colleagues, ill-informed colleagues on the other side of the aisle, regarding the year 2000 census.

Let me suggest that the very same Democrats who self-righteously assure us that the Commerce Department under President Clinton will be immune from politics, if given the opportunity to conduct the census by sampling, would be the very same people who would be screaming, "Don't play politics with the census", if a Republican President were trying to do the same thing.

In fact, there is not a single Democrat who would be supporting sampling

if the sampling computer magic were not being conducted by the political appointees of the Commerce Department. And let us not forget that the administration that my colleagues suggest is a paragon of integrity is the same administration that used the IRS to smear Billy Dale and the White House travel office employees, the same administration that politicized the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1996 to illegally approve citizenship for criminal aliens, and, of course, it is the same administration that has done such a good job regarding missile technology secrets from the Communist Chinese.

□ 1530

#### AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE AND EXPECT AN EXPLANATION

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, of all the scandals coming out of this White House, one scandal above all is perhaps the most disturbing. This scandal is more disturbing than the 900 FBI files on Republicans that somehow showed up in the White House; more disturbing than the use of private investigators to smear political opponents; more disturbing than the use of the IRS and the FBI to smear Billy Dale and the Travel Office employees; more disturbing than the allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice; and even more disturbing than the vast left-wing coverup of all of the above.

I am talking about the shocking revelation that the White House has helped the Communist Chinese Government with its missile program. We do not know if this administration gave a waiver to Loral Corporation because the chairman, Bernard Schwartz, was the Democrat's top donor in 1996 or not. But whether this administration did it for the money or not, the scandal is still almost beyond comprehension.

At best, the administration inadvertently helped the Communist Chinese Government to develop its Long March missiles. The American people expect and deserve an explanation.

#### AMERICA NEEDS TO ADDRESS CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, agriculture in the northern plains is in great crisis. Farmers are having to sell below the cost of production. People across America need to understand that there is a close connection between a healthy agricultural economy and a strong America.

We need to address the crisis in agriculture, but we need to do it without the partisan carping that is coming out of the Democrats in Congress. The

level of the rhetoric that is coming out of the Democratic leadership in the Congress is shameful.

We need to work together to solve the cash-flow problems in agriculture, to more aggressively open markets overseas, and to improve the crop insurance program. Farmers do not care whether the Democrats or the Republicans get the credit. They only know that they need to stay in business.

I challenge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us cooperatively to find solutions to the crisis in agriculture. Let us quit playing politics with agriculture's future. Let us work together.

#### IRANIANS TEST INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, when just a couple of days ago the Iranians tested an intermediate range ballistic missile, one that has the range to strike Israel, our administration was once more embarrassed, because they had predicted a number of times that the Iranians could not achieve this capability until sometime late next year.

Well, the Iranians were a year ahead of schedule. Only one person predicted they would be able to do it much earlier in this body, and that was the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON). He is working on a piece of missile defense legislation. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) is putting in legislation a number of us are cosponsoring which directs the President to conduct an emergency program to build a defense against the systems the Iranians are developing right now.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the President to act. With the same urgency with which our enemies are building the ballistic missiles, we must act with the same urgency to build defenses against those missiles.

#### TODAY UTAH CELEBRATES ITS PIONEER HERITAGE

(Mr. CANNON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, 151 years ago today, Brigham Young led the first Mormon pioneers into the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

The next spring, malnourished Mormon settlers began planting corn, beans, wheat, and potatoes. But as soon as they sprouted, the shoots were attacked by hordes of crickets.

Dr. Priddy Meeks recorded in his journal that "the crickets came so thick it made the earth black in places, and it did look like they would take away what little we had growing \* \* \* and we a thousand miles away from supplies."

Out of desperation, men, women and children poured into the fields to scare